10/25/86 58895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 10 OCT. 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	July '86	Aug '86
Labor Force	260,297	257,000
Employment	236,807	236,500
Unemployment	23,490	20,500
Rate (Raw)	9.0	8.0
Rate (S.A.)	9.7	9.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.29	$14.00
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	40.9	41.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.9	6.8
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.46	$12.47
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.5	41.7
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	328.0	328.6
Denver (Bimonthly)	358.4	
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.6	+1.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of **Trends** *be sure to see these articles:*

- Banking Performance in Wyoming
- ACCRA Cost of Living Comparisons, Second Quarter 1986
- Wyoming Replaces Alaska As Least-Populous State

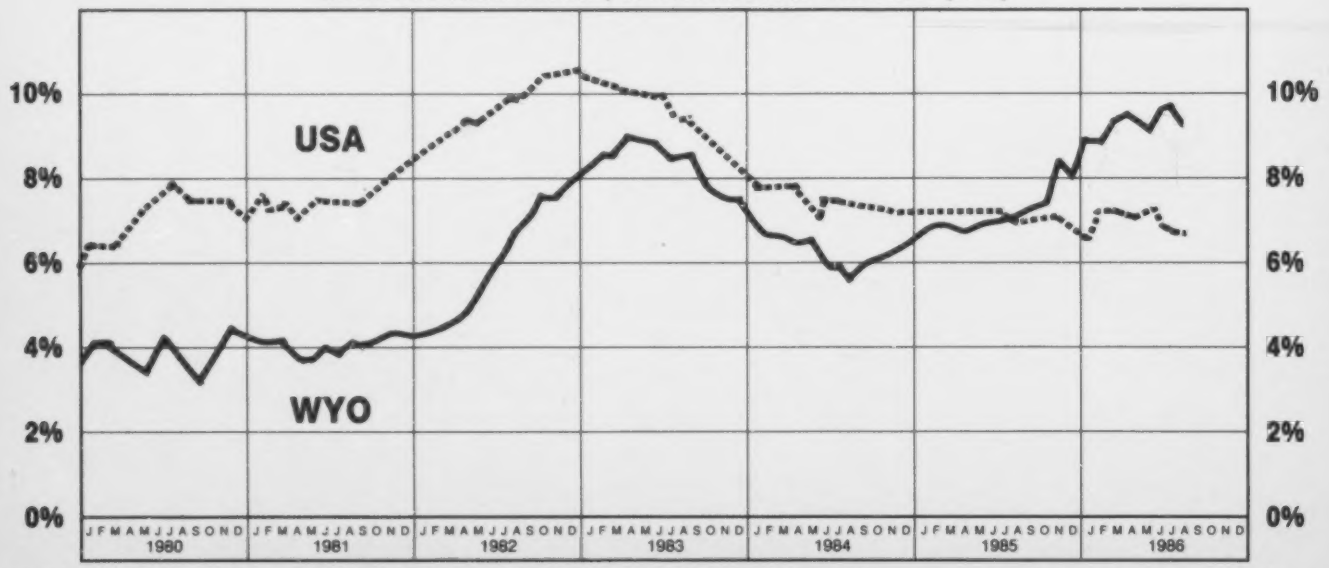
THE NATIONAL SCENE

In August, 8.0 million were unemployed in the U.S. when the unemployment rate dropped for the third consecutive month. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 6.8 percent, down from the July rate of 6.9 percent and the August 1985 rate of 7.1 percent. The August rate was the lowest since January of this year when a 6.7 percent rate was recorded.

The rate thus far in 1986 has averaged 7.1 percent. This is down slightly from the annual average rate of 7.2 percent in 1985 which, in turn, was down from the 7.5 percent average recorded in 1984.

In August, the lowest unemployment, 5.0 percent, was held by adult white men. Adult white women followed closely behind with a rate of 5.2 percent. The highest rate, 39.5 percent, was held by black youth 16-19 years of age.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The average duration of unemployment in the U.S. during July was 15.8 weeks, about the same as the 15.5 weeks experienced a year ago. The national employed labor force, total workers, increased annually by 2.9 million to 111.5 million jobholders in August. Strong annual employment gains in services, 1.1 million; trade, 0.7 million; and construction, 0.4 million helped boost the national economy.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming's unemployment rate in August edged downward to 8.0 percent, seasonally unadjusted, compared to the month ago July rate of 9.0 percent. That rate of decline for August is greater than normal. However, this monthly decline should not necessarily be interpreted as an improvement in the economy as unemployment historically declines seasonally in August. As of the end of July the state's unemployment rate ranked ninth highest in the nation, behind Michigan.

The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Wyoming was 9.3 percent, down from 9.7 percent in July but substantially higher than the August, 1985 rate of 7.1 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate registered 6.8 percent in August.

The August labor force declined from July, statewide, by almost 3,300 workers to 257,000 and was down four percent from the August, 1985 labor force of 267,600. In contrast to the U.S. the Wyoming employed labor force was down on an annual basis, by 14,800 workers, or about six percent. The U.S. employed labor force was up by almost three percent over-the-year.

Year-to-year declines in labor force were experienced in 19 counties around the state, while the remaining four reflected some very modest gains, most notable being Sublette, Sweetwater and Uinta counties. In sharp contrast to past boom years, most recently the late 1970's and early 1980's, there are currently no major growth areas in Wyoming.

Five counties had unemployment rates greater than 10 percent during August, with Big Horn again having the highest, at 13.0 percent. Uinta, Natrona, Fremont, and Weston counties followed with rates of 11.6, 11.0, 10.4, and 10.1 percent respectively. And as usual, Natrona County continued with the largest number of jobseekers, over 3,800, followed by Sweetwater with over 2,000 unemployed.

Teton and Albany counties enjoyed the lowest unemployment rates in the state - 2.4 and 4.2 respectively. Laramie County followed with 5.3 percent. Teton County, the Jackson area, was enjoying the peak of its tourist season in August. Albany and Laramie counties have a high ratio of government workers to all workers, 39 and 30 percent, compared to 20 percent for the state as a whole.

With the exception of manufacturing, finance, insurance & real estate, and state and local government, all major industrial sectors in the state in August lost workers over-the-year. Mining, oil & gas extraction, oilfield related services, trade, and services continued to be the most depressed industries.

BANKING PERFORMANCE IN WYOMING

A recent article in the *Economic Review* from the Federal Reserve Board of Kansas City, discussed what is happening to banks in the Tenth District. The District includes Wyoming, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and New Mexico. According to the article, "Banking Performance in Tenth District States," banking in Wyoming continued to be hurt in 1985 by the severe recession in energy and mining.

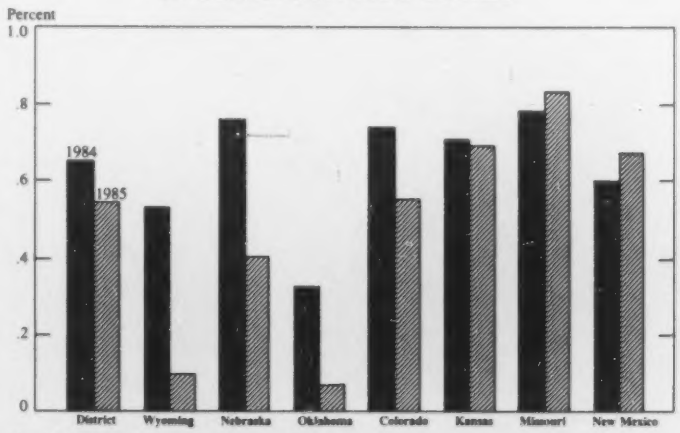
At the end of 1985, 7.4 percent of the loans at Wyoming banks were nonperforming. This delinquency rate was the highest in the district, reflecting slower than average repayment of real estate loans and commercial and industrial loans.

Wyoming banks had the largest decline in return on assets (ROA - profits divided by average assets) in 1985. During the year, five of the state's 120 banks failed, and only one new bank was started.

Most Wyoming banks saw assets growing very slowly and the number of loans declining. However, small banks earned about the same ROA in Wyoming as other banks in the rest of the district; it was large and medium size banks that suffered net losses as a group. As a result the average ROA for the state was only 0.1 percent in 1985, well below the district average of 0.55 percent.

For the third year in a row, 1985 represents a decline in the profitability of Wyoming banks. Continuing low prices for oil will obviously hurt many of the banks in Wyoming, both by increasing their direct losses on energy loans and by depressing local economies. Difficult challenges lie ahead. But by looking to their capitol and exercising prudent management, the vast majority of Wyoming banks should be able to weather their problems.

RETURN ON ASSETS AT BANKS IN TENTH DISTRICT STATES*



*Profits divided by average assets.

Reprinted from: Economic Review, Federal Reserve Board of Kansas City, July/August, 1986.

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS SECOND QUARTER 1986

	All Items	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transp.	Health Care	Misc.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	20%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	97.2	96.6	81.2	95.5	106.2	105.4	104.1
Evanston	101.7	106.3	86.6	87.9	112.5	116.7	106.9
Neighboring Cities:							
Billings, MT	106.4	105.5	122.4	88.4	94.6	111.7	105.8
Denver, CO	103.5	97.0	122.3	76.9	109.2	109.3	99.2
Omaha, NE	95.6	91.8	93.0	93.9	97.7	94.1	99.8
Rapid City, SD	96.8	103.4	89.3	87.2	99.7	115.5	96.5
Salt Lake City, UT	101.4	102.9	94.4	97.2	98.6	105.3	107.5
Twin Falls, ID	89.4	95.0	80.9	70.1	93.5	109.8	93.1
Highest U.S. City	152.6 Fairbanks AK	148.7 St. Thomas VI	190.4 ------- New York NY -------	190.1	137.2 ----------	232.9 Fairbanks AK	145.1 ----------
Lowest U.S. City	86.2 Sommerset KY	84.9 Joplin MO	70.8 Murray KY	51.3 Seattle WA	76.9 Janesville WI	72.2 Paris TN	87.0 Canton OH Beloit WI

Source: ACCRA* American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

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WYOMING REPLACES ALASKA AS LEAST-POPULOUS STATE

(This is a reprint of an Associated Press article which appeared in the September 19, 1986 edition of the ***Rocky Mountain News.)***

Wyoming replaced Alaska last year as the nation's least-populous state as many residents left jobless by the depressed energy industry moved elsewhere, a Census Bureau official told Congress yesterday.

Wyoming lost population in 1984 and 1985 as a result of depressed coal and oil industries that spurred migration to more economically prosperous places, Richard Engels told the joint economic committee's economic resources subcommittee.

"The population losses in the last 2 years have particularly affected Wyoming," said Engels, assistant chief of the Census Bureau's population division. "The declines have now made it our smallest state. Alaska held that distinction since it was admitted as a state in 1959."

Engels said Alaska's oil boom which has now ended, spurred population growth of 30 percent in the first half of the decade.

According to Census Bureau estimates, Alaska's population jumped from 500,000 in 1984 to 521,000 last year, while Wyoming's declined from 511,000 to 509,000 during the same period.

Most recent estimates for 1986, which the Census Bureau will publish next month, will show a continuation of the trend, Engels said.

The oil bust has caused a big migration of jobless Alaskans to the lower 48 states that may cut Alaska's population lead over Wyoming, John D. Kasarda, a population expert from the University of North Carolina, said during a break in the hearing.

But Kasarda said Wyoming's continued loss of population would preserve its status as the nation's least populous state.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
August 1986	328.6	314.6	362.4	274.7	207.0	301.3	437.5
Annual % Change	1.6	4.2	2.7	3.4	0.8	- 6.0	7.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	AUG 1986 [1]	JUL 1986 [1]	AUG 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	257,000	260,297	267,633	- 1.3	- 4.0
Unemployment	20,500	23,490	16,298	- 12.7	25.8
Employed Labor Force	236,500	236,807	251,335	- 0.1	- 5.9
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	200,900	200,200	201,000	0.3	- 0.1
b. Agriculture[3]	12,693	12,821	12,926	- 1.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.0% 9.3%*	9.0% 9.7%*	6.1% 7.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.7% 6.8%*	7.0% 6.9%*	6.9% 7.1%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.5%*	3.7%*	1.6%*	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 581.00	$ 584.46	$ 594.93	- 0.6	- 2.3
Average Weekly Hours	41.5	40.9	44.9	1.5	- 7.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.00	$ 14.29	$ 13.25	- 2.0	5.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	30,153	37,121	16,040	- 18.8	88.0
a. Initial	3,406	4,535	2,244	- 24.9	51.8
Weeks Compensated	29,029	33,177	13,882	- 12.5	109.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 4,827,411	$ 5,443,462	$ 2,072,430	- 11.3	132.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 165.86	$ 163.73	$ 148.52	1.3	11.7
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,173	5,045	4,614	- 17.3	- 9.6
Non-Ag. Openings Received	4,404	3,704	5,603	18.9	- 21.4
Non-Ag. Placements	3,142	2,793	3,973	12.5	- 20.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 520.00	$ 517.09	$ 519.17	0.6	0.2
Average Weekly Hours	41.7	41.5	43.3	0.5	- 3.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.47	$ 12.46	$ 11.99	0.1	4.0
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	328.6	328.0	323.5	0.2	1.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	297.2	297.7	307.3	- 0.2	- 3.3
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	314.6	312.2	301.9	0.8	4.2

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUG 1986	JUL 1986	AUG 1985	%CHANGE JUL-AUG	%CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1986	JUL 1986	AUG 1985	AUG 1986	JUL 1986	AUG 1985
Statewide	257,000	260,297	267,633	- 1.3	- 4.0	20,500	23,490	16,298	8.0	9.0	6.1
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.3	9.7	7.1
Albany	15,286	15,484	16,040	- 1.3	- 4.7	647	695	602	4.2	4.5	3.8
Big Horn	4,855	4,912	5,006	- 1.2	- 3.0	631	712	370	13.0	14.5	7.4
Campbell	19,836	20,253	19,669	- 2.1	0.8	1,788	2,080	1,237	9.0	10.3	6.3
Carbon	8,375	8,439	9,192	- 0.8	- 8.9	725	806	644	8.7	9.5	7.0
Converse	6,344	6,549	6,755	- 3.1	- 6.1	627	812	571	9.9	12.4	8.4
Crook	3,045	3,107	3,208	- 2.0	- 5.1	166	242	170	5.5	7.8	5.3
Fremont	15,409	15,715	17,012	- 1.9	- 9.4	1,608	1,934	1,665	10.4	12.3	9.8
Goshen	6,021	6,034	6,433	- 0.2	- 6.4	358	404	318	5.9	6.7	4.9
Hot Springs	2,789	2,835	3,057	- 1.6	- 8.8	248	266	158	8.9	9.4	5.2
Johnson	3,275	3,330	3,675	- 1.7	- 10.9	276	294	174	8.4	8.8	4.7
Laramie	35,438	35,751	35,983	- 0.9	- 1.5	1,876	1,951	2,014	5.3	5.5	5.6
Lincoln	9,637	9,874	9,665	- 2.4	- 0.3	719	1,032	563	7.5	10.4	5.8
Natrona	34,793	34,904	37,524	- 0.3	- 7.3	3,834	4,288	2,700	11.0	12.3	7.2
Niobrara	1,652	1,671	1,801	- 1.1	- 8.3	109	135	108	6.6	8.1	6.0
Park	15,478	15,893	15,965	- 2.6	- 3.1	1,161	1,368	792	7.5	8.6	5.0
Platte	3,413	3,463	3,777	- 1.4	- 9.6	279	340	334	8.2	9.8	8.8
Sheridan	12,473	12,530	13,551	- 0.5	- 8.0	757	852	810	6.1	6.8	6.0
Sublette	4,103	4,083	4,016	0.5	2.2	238	285	124	5.8	7.0	3.1
Sweetwater	22,452	22,650	22,117	- 0.9	1.5	2,021	2,192	1,340	9.0	9.7	6.1
Teton	12,382	12,480	12,678	- 0.8	- 2.3	296	422	329	2.4	3.4	2.6
Uinta	12,008	12,203	11,819	- 1.6	1.6	1,390	1,506	704	11.6	12.3	6.0
Washakie	4,938	5,027	5,296	- 1.8	- 6.8	444	487	366	9.0	9.7	6.9
Weston	2,996	3,110	3,395	- 3.7	- 11.8	301	388	205	10.1	12.5	6.1
United States									6.7	7.0	6.9
United States - Seasonally adjusted									6.8	6.9	7.1

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1986[2]	JUL 1986[3]	AUG 1985	JUL 1986	AUG 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1986	to AUG 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	200.8	203.0	214.4	- 1.1	- 6.3
Manufacturing	8.3	8.2	8.2	1.2	1.2
Durable Goods	4.1	3.9	4.1	5.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	192.5	194.8	206.2	- 1.2	- 6.6
Mining	21.5	22.0	26.8	- 2.3	- 19.8
Contract Construction	16.0	16.2	17.6	- 1.2	- 9.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.7	15.2	- 0.7	- 4.0
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.4	0.0	20.8
Transportation except Railroads	5.3	5.4	6.1	- 1.8	- 13.1
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.4	6.4	6.7	0.0	- 4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.7	44.8	47.5	- 0.2	- 5.9
Wholesale Trade	8.8	8.8	9.6	0.0	- 8.3
Retail Trade	36.0	36.0	37.9	0.0	- 5.0
Food Stores	5.0	5.1	5.4	- 2.0	- 7.4
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.3	6.1	6.6	3.3	- 4.5
Eating & Drinking Places	12.9	12.9	13.4	0.0	- 3.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	8.1	8.1	- 1.2	- 1.2
Services	37.9	37.9	40.2	0.0	- 5.7
Personal Services	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.0	7.0	6.3	0.0	11.1
Government	49.8	51.1	50.8	- 2.5	- 2.0
Federal Government	8.5	8.6	9.4	- 1.2	- 9.6
State & Local Government	41.3	42.6	41.4	- 3.1	- 0.2
State Government	13.2	13.5	13.1	- 2.2	0.8
Local Government	28.0	29.1	28.4	- 3.8	- 1.4

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1986[2]	JUL 1986[3]	AUG 1985	JUL 1986	AUG 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1986	to AUG 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.4	29.5	33.2	- 0.3	- 11.4
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	- 7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.1	28.2	31.8	- 0.4	- 11.6
Mining	3.3	3.3	4.7	0.0	- 29.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.0	3.1	4.2	- 3.2	- 28.6
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	- 25.0
Contract Construction	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	- 4.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.0	- 9.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.3	8.3	9.5	0.0	- 12.6
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	3.3	0.0	- 18.2
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	6.2	0.0	- 9.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services	5.3	5.3	5.9	0.0	- 10.2
Government	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	- 3.4
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.0	5.0	5.2	0.0	- 3.8
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	31.0	30.9	- 1.3	- 1.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.5	29.9	29.8	- 1.3	- 1.0
Contract Construction	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	- 4.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	6.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.7	6.7	7.2	0.0	- 7.0
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	6.0	6.0	6.4	0.0	- 6.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.4	5.5	5.4	- 1.8	0.0
Government	10.0	10.1	9.9	- 1.0	1.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
State & Local Government	7.3	7.5	7.3	- 2.7	0.0

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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